

America and a vital resource for fishing, boating, swimming, and other recreational activities. Lake St. Clair is not the largest body of water in the Great Lakes system, but no body of water is more important. During his tenure on the City Council and especially as Mayor, Mr. Hison has worked to restore Lake St. Clair and address longstanding environmental problems that threatened the health of this vital natural resource. In particular, he has worked closely with my office and the Environmental Protection Agency to begin to address the PCB contamination that was discovered in the Ten Mile Drain adjacent to the Lake in 2002.

In addition, while serving as Mayor, Mr. Hison went beyond serving his community and lent his talents to the entire Southeast Michigan area by taking on several leadership roles with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). He served as chair of both the Data Center and Finance & Budget Committees before being elected as vice chair of SEMCOG in 2007 and later chair in 2010. In 2010 he was nominated by SEMCOG for the open Region IX seat on the National Organization of Regional Councils (NARC) Board which serves Michigan and Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated public service of Robert Hison and his numerous achievements. I am so pleased to join with the entire community in paying tribute to his achievements, thanking him for years of talented service. I am confident he will continue to play an important role in the community where he is so highly thought of, in addition to enjoying a bit of retirement with his wife Nancy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN LATINO MUSEUM ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (FL-18) the Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act—a companion bill that is also being introduced today in the U.S. Senate by our colleagues Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ (NJ), Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID (NV) and Senator MARCO RUBIO (FL).

The Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act we introduce today advances the work of the National Museum of the American Latino Commission—a 23-member bipartisan, congressionally authorized commission of experts that investigated the potential creation of a museum. Through an exhaustive process that involved consultations with national experts, forums in 8 cities (Chicago, Albuquerque, Austin, Miami, St. Paul, Los Angeles, New York City, and San Juan, Puerto Rico), and communication via several online platforms that engaged tens of thousands of supporters, the commission generated valuable input regarding the feasibility of an American Latino museum in Washington, DC.

Over the past 18 years the call has grown stronger and stronger to establish such a museum on our National Mall that shares the rich and full story of what it means to be an American. The effort to create the American Latino Museum dates back to 1993, when a Smithso-

nian Task Force on Latino Issues formally called for the creation of a national museum dedicated to sharing the story of Latinos' historic, cultural and artistic contributions to the U.S. I was proud to introduce the legislation in 2003 that created the National Museum of the American Latino Commission. Five years later, in 2008, Congress passed the bill and it was signed by President George W. Bush. Once appointed by Congress and President Barack Obama, the Commission began its work in 2009 with the support of the Department of Interior and Secretary Ken Salazar. The Commission's final 2011 report and recommendations can be viewed at <http://www.americanlatinomuseum.gov>.

The bill we are introducing responds to the Commission's call for the creation of a national museum in Washington, DC that illuminates the American story for the benefit of all" by preserving, presenting and interpreting American Latino history, art, cultural expressions, and experiences. Specifically, the bill:

(1) Establishes within the Smithsonian Institution a museum to be known as the "Smithsonian American Latino Museum."

(2) Designates the museum's site as the Arts and Industries Building on the National Mall, at 900 Jefferson Drive Southwest in Washington, DC.

(3) Authorizes the Smithsonian Board of Regents to prepare a plan of action for the museum, as referred to in the May 2011 Report to Congress submitted by the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission and federal and local agencies.

(4) Authorizes the Regents to identify and evaluate viable funding models for both the construction and operation of the museum, within 18 months after the bill is enacted.

(5) Authorizes the Regents and Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement that allows for the planning, design and construction of an underground annex facility, in a manner harmonious with and to protect the open space and visual sightlines of the Mall.

Today marks a key moment in our effort to ensure that the contributions of Americans of Latino descent receive the respect and recognition earned by a patriotic community of Americans who have served this nation since its inception and now number over 50 million. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and to supporting the Smithsonian Institution in an important new chapter of its work to increase understanding of the American experience.

HONORING DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSIC DIRECTOR JAAP VAN ZWEDEN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jaap van Zweden, Dutch conductor and music director for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Van Zweden has been named 2012 conductor of the year by Musical America after joining the Dallas Symphony Orchestra as music di-

rector just 4 years ago, beginning with the 2008–09 season.

Announced at the annual Musical America Awards, conductor of the year looks to recognize artistic excellence and achievement in the arts. Mr. Van Zweden has demonstrated mastery in both of these aspects, as evident in his most impressive and diverse career over the years.

Before joining the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Van Zweden had worked with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, among many others all across the world. Mr. Van Zweden currently also serves as chief conductor and artistic director of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestras as well as chief conductor of the Royal Flemish Philharmonic Orchestra of Belgium.

The DSO is truly privileged to have such a talented and accomplished artist to lead their musical program. As a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am always looking for ways to enrich our creative capacity in Dallas and throughout the Nation. Drawing talent from outside the district is just one method for achieving this noble objective.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we continue to honor the individuals who contribute so much cultural value here at home. Artistic and musical inspirations such as Jaap van Zweden have a positive impact on our communities and I commemorate anyone who chooses to enrich the lives of others by using their talents toward the betterment of society.

IN RECOGNITION OF RENÉE AND ROBERT BELFER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Renée and Robert Belfer for their foresight and generosity in advancing medical research and countless other worthwhile charitable and non-profit causes. Partners in marriage and philanthropy for more than half a century, Renée and Robert Belfer are being honored this month by the internationally renowned Weill Cornell Medical College for more than two decades of leadership at the Medical College and at an affiliated institution, New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

This month, a groundbreaking ceremony is being held for the new Belfer Research Building of the internationally renowned Weill Cornell College of Medicine. Its construction was made possible by an extraordinarily generous \$100 million donation by Renée and Robert Belfer. The Belfer Research Building will be a state-of-the-art 18-story facility on Manhattan's East Side that will more than double the Weill Cornell College of Medicine's existing research space and enhance its position at the cutting edge of new medical research and discoveries.

The remarkable record of support provided by Renée and Robert Belfer and their family has helped medical researchers and doctors develop enduring solutions to some of today's most pressing and prevalent health problems. In 1980, Arthur Belfer, the father of Robert Belfer, established the R.A. Rees Pritchett

Professorship of Microbiology at Weill Cornell Medical College with a gift of \$1 million. In 1991, Robert and Renée Belfer and his two sisters and their husbands, Selma and Lawrence Ruben and Anita and Jack Saltz, donated \$1.5 million to endow the Rochelle Belfer Professorship in Medicine at the College, and seven years later, the families contributed \$4 million to endow the College's Arthur B. Belfer Professorship in Genetic Medicine and provide funding for its Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Gene Therapy Core Facility. With an \$8 million gift to the College of Medicine in 2005, Robert and Renée Belfer established The Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Institute of Hematology and Medical Oncology, named in honor of his parents. The Institute is advancing critical research in fields such as solid tumor biology, cancer genomics and proteomics. Renée and Robert Belfer have also devoted financial support to programs in women's health, and in 2003 donated \$1 million to create the Anti-Bioterrorism Project.

Renée and Robert Belfer have truly distinguished themselves on a multitude of fronts. A graduate of Vassar College, Mrs. Belfer is devoted to education and the arts, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; as a Director of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; as an Overseer of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; an Executive Board Member of the American Friends of the Israel Museum; and a Member of the Chairman's Circle of the Central Park Conservancy, among the numerous illustrious non-profit institutions she and her husband have supported vigorously over the years. A graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School, Robert Belfer is a titan in the world of business, enjoying a long career at the Belco Petroleum Corporation, where he rose to become Chairman, and currently serving as Chairman of Belfer Management LLC, a private firm specializing in the energy, real estate and financial services sectors. He has been an extraordinary supporter of a wide variety of renowned educational and non-profit institutions, serving as a Member of the Board of Overseers and the Executive Committee of the Weill Cornell Medical College; on the Visiting Committee of Harvard University's Kennedy School; a Trustee of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute; a Member of the Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee and the Weizmann Institute of Science; and former Chair and current Member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Together, he and his wife established the Robert and Renée Belfer Family Foundation, which has unstintingly bestowed generous support on worthwhile institutions like the Weill Cornell College of Medicine. They raised children, Rachelle (Malkin), Laurence, and Elizabeth, and have five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my esteemed colleagues join me in paying tribute to Renée and Robert Belfer for their significant and enduring contributions to the civic life of our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 841 I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN HONOR OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY'S MARCHING BAND AND THE 75TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF "SCRIPT OHIO"

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize "The Best Damn Band in the Land!"

In my opinion, there are not many more electrifying and time-honored traditions in college sports than The Ohio State University Marching Band's presentation of "Script Ohio." Throughout the country, it would be hard to find a college football fan that has not personally witnessed or been told the tale of this truly remarkable exhibition of music in motion. This year marks the 75th anniversary since former band director Eugene Weigel developed this storied ritual, and today "Script Ohio" continues to bring immense pride to the university and Buckeyes all over the world.

To me, attending an Ohio State football game and observing the band's elegance and precision remains a breathtaking experience. Along with other lifelong supporters of the school, I consider watching "Script Ohio" a considerably moving event, one that warms the heart of any Buckeye. The flowing spelling of those four letters stands as a monument to our state and an appreciation that all Ohioans cherish. As the band takes the field, fans throughout The Horseshoe, whatever colors they wear, quickly realize the significance of the spectacle they are witnessing.

As a former member of the band I have had the honor of forming "Script Ohio" countless times. My time with the band remains one of the most memorable and thrilling experiences in my life. One of my fondest memories is personally watching the legendary Ohio State Football Coach Woody Hayes dotting the "i" before a game. Only a handful of non-band members have ever been given the opportunity to take part in such a prestigious event. Seeing Woody honored that way was a testament to his legacy and Ohio State's respect for tradition and honor.

It deeply pleases me to speak on behalf of something that continuously fills me with pride: The Ohio State University Marching Band. Congratulations on the 75th anniversary of Script Ohio. Go Bucks!

RECOGNIZING MINNIE'S FOOD PANTRY 4TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER GIVEAWAY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Minnie's Food Pantry, a 501(c)(3) agency in the Third Congressional District of Texas that provides nutritious food, free of charge, to families in underserved communities. With the community's outpouring of financial donations and food collections, Minnie's Food Pantry is one of the largest pantries in Collin County.

Founded in 2008 by Cheryl "Action" Jackson to honor her mother Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing, the organization has partnered with individuals, businesses and farmers to alleviate hunger and build community relationships. This year, Minnie's Food Pantry is hosting the 4th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway "From Our Table to Yours."

Just this year alone, Minnie's Food Pantry has fed over 23,000 people. This Thanksgiving, Minnie's Food Pantry will provide a complete meal for more than 1,200 local families.

I am pleased to recognize Minnie's Food Pantry, along with its Board of Directors, for its invaluable contribution to combat hunger in Collin County. It is an honor and a privilege to represent this fine organization. It is organizations like Minnie's that make North Texas a great place to call home.

To Minnie Ewing and the great folks of Minnie's Food Pantry, God bless you, best wishes for wonderful things to come, and Happy Thanksgiving!

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROBERT LEE MATHIS

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Lee Mathis, who recently passed away at the age of 77. Robert was the first African American to be elected to public office in Concord, North Carolina, and led a life of service dedicated to his community and his country.

A native of Cabarrus County, Robert Mathis joined the U.S. Navy after school where he served our nation honorably. Robert volunteered to put his life on the line in order to protect the American people and American values. He continued to live his life with this same kind of selflessness even after his military service came to an end.

Upon returning to Cabarrus County, Robert Mathis was elected to the Concord Board of Alderman, where he served for more than 15 years. Robert was the first African American to be elected to public office in Concord, making his election a landmark achievement for African Americans in my district. Even as Robert was holding local office and making history, this was still not enough. Robert was additionally a board chairman for the nonprofit Logan